

REMARKS

Claims 12-16, 18, 71, and 73-77 are pending.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claim 18 is rejected as being indefinite. Claim 18 has been amended as suggested by the Office and this rejection may now be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 12, 14-16, 18, and 73-77 are rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,740,520 (“Goddard”).

Claim 12, from which the other pending claims depend, has been amended to require, *inter alia*, that the claimed polypeptide include the amino acid sequence MMPKHCL/FLG L/FLI, (SEQ ID NO:13). Because Goddard does not disclose any amino acid sequence with this feature, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

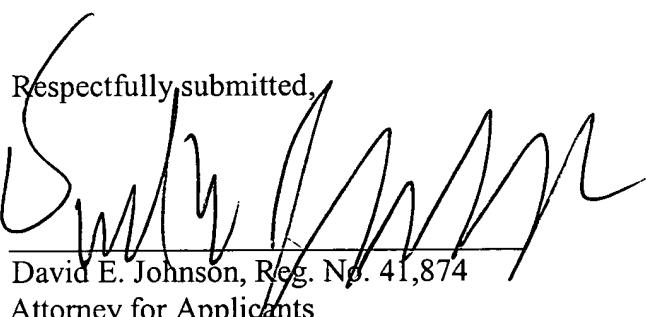
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If there are any questions regarding this amendment and/or these remarks, the Office is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Although no fees are believed to be due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees that may be due, or to credit any overpayment, to the undersigned's account, Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 22058-532.

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Respectfully submitted,



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